

# CHAPTER 5

# CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the consultation and coordination activities the BLM has carried out while preparing this draft document. Public comments on the document and BLM responses to them will be included in this chapter of the Final El Malpais Plan.

Consultation and coordination have occurred in a variety of ways throughout the planning process. Formal and informal efforts have been made to involve the public, other federal agencies, American Indian tribal groups, state and local governments. More detailed documentation of this effort is on file at the Albuquerque Field Office, as is a complete list of all those contacted.

#### CONSULTATION REGARDING WILDLIFE

The BLM must consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 before any agency project is initiated that may affect any federally listed, special-status, plant or wildlife species or its habitat. This proposed plan is considered a major federal action, so the BLM has initiated informal consultation. Letters documenting this activity are on file at the Albuquerque Field Office.

## CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

BLM planning regulations require that Resource Management Plans be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, policies and procedures of other federal agencies, American Indian tribes, state and local governments. To ensure such consistency, the BLM has sent letters to all the groups and agencies listed in Table 5-1. These same entities have received copies of this document for their comment.

No inconsistencies are known between any of the plan alternatives and officially approved and adopted, resource-related plans of any of the abovementioned groups. The BLM will continue to consult and coordinate during the public comment periods on this plan.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation in this El Malpais Plan is a dynamic process that continues throughout plan development and beyond. In addition to formal public participation, informal contact occurs frequently with public land users and interested persons. All applicable public participation is documented and analyzed in the planning process and kept on file at the Albuquerque Field Office.

Public involvement is essential to the success of the plan. Although public input is welcome at any time, the BLM provides five specific opportunities for public comment, participation or review during the planning process.

- The BLM published a general Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an RMP Amendment/EIS in the *Federal Register* on March 29, 1995 (Vol. 60, No. 60). In the NOI, the agency also identified the general planning criteria and invited public comment. This letter invited them to participate again by attending meetings and/or providing written comments.
- With the NOI, the BLM officially initiated the scoping process. The agency then held public meetings to develop planning issues and review planning criteria in Grants (April 24-25, 1995), the Ramah Navajo Chapter House (April 25, 1995), and Albuquerque (April 26-27, 1995). The BLM met with the Acoma Tribal government on April 4, 1995, and accepted written comments until scoping officially ended on May 19, 1995. Completing Steps 1 and 2 of the planning process, the agency mailed out information on the results of public scoping on July 24, 1995, to all on the El Malpais Plan mailing list.
- 3. The BLM is providing a 90-day public comment period for this document. Public meetings to collect oral comments on the plan are scheduled for Albuquerque, Grants and Ramah. To gather input on the suitability of the Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area for wilderness designation, the agency will also hold a formal public hearing.

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- 4. After publishing the Proposed Plan and Final EIS, the BLM will provide a 30-day period for public protests of the RMP Amendment decisions. (Note: BLM regulations provide that only those people who participated in the planning process may protest a proposed RMP Amendment, and those protests are limited to specific issues commented on during the planning process.)
- 5. The BLM will then release the ROD and Approved Plan (RMP Amendment), including any significant changes made as the result of an action on a protest. Appeals of activity-level planning decisions can be made by those parties adversely affected at the time the ROD is released.

After the plan is published, the BLM will prepare an annual update to keep members of the public informed about the progress made in plan implementation. The update will also describe the activity plans to be prepared the following year so interested persons may request copies and comment on them. This effort will enable the public to become further involved in specific land management actions resulting from plan implementation.

#### PREPARERS OF THE PLAN

This plan has been prepared by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists. Table 5-2 lists the names and qualifications of each team member.



#### **TABLE 5-1**

## PARTIAL LISTING OF GROUPS AND AGENCIES RECEIVING THE EL MALPAIS PLAN

American Indian Tribes and Groups American Fisheries Association

Amigos Bravos

Archeological Conservancy Acoma Pueblo Alamo Navajo Chapter Backcountry Horsemen

All Indian Pueblo Council Center for Environmental Research Cañoncito Navajo Chapter Central NM Audubon Society

Laguna Pueblo Cibola Chamber of Commerce Navajo Tribal Council Commission of Wilderness Supporters

Ramah Navajo Chapter Continental Divide Trail Society

Zuni Pueblo Defenders of Wildlife

Earth First

<u>Businesses</u> East Manzano Alliance Friends of Paleontology Continental Divide Electric Cooperative Forest Guardians

Cottonwood Gulch Foundation Gallup Convention & Visitors Bureau

Grand Canyon Trust First National Bank

G S & S Partnership Greater Gila Biodiversity Project

Grant County Farm & Livestock Los Amigos del Malpais

Grants State Bank National Audubon Society

Hampton Builders Corporation National Parks & Conservation Association Headquarters West Ltd. National Wildlife Federation

**Hunter Corporation** Natural Resources Defense Council

Jerome P. McHugh & Associates NM Archeological Council NM Cattle Growers Association Mariah Associates

Moleres Ranch Inc. NM 4 Wheelers NationsBank NM Garden Clubs NM-AZ Land Company NM Land Use Alliance

Pitchford Properties NM Mountain Club **Public Lands Association** NM PIRG Fund Public Service Co. of NM NM Speleological Society, Sandia Grotto

Ouivira Research Center **NM Trials Association** 

REI NM Volunteers for the Outdoors

Sandia Man Films NM Wilderness Coalition

SW Off Road Enterprises NM Wilderness Study Committee

Sunset Inc. NM Wildlife Federation Techado Land & Cattle Co. Plateau Sciences Society Western Land Bank Public Land Users Association

Wilderness Center Public Lands Action Network Williams Co. Sandia Mountain Wildlife Association

Zia Research Sierra Club

**Interest Groups** 

Zuni Archeology Program Southwest Research & Information Center The Nature Conservancy

The Wilderness Society The Wildlife Society Albuquerque Wildlife Federation Tonantzin Land Institute University of Arizona American Wilderness Alliance

American Wildlands University of New Mexico

### TABLE 5-1 (concl'd)

Interest Groups, concl'd

Wilderness Watch, NM Chapter

Wildlife Rescue of NM

Zuni Mountain Coalition

Federal Government Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Navajo Agency BIA, Ramah Agency

BIA, Southern Pueblos Agency

BIA, Zuni Agency Bureau of Mines Bureau of Reclamation Dept. of Energy Dept. of Justice

Dept. of Transportation

**Environmental Protection Agency** 

Fish & Wildlife Service Dept. of Interior,

Office of Environmental Project Review

National Park Service (NPS), El Malpais Nat'l Monument NPS, El Morro Nat'l Monument

NPS, Southwest Cluster

Natural Resources Conservation Service Rural Economic & Community Devel. Admin.

U.S. Air Force

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Forest Service, Cibola National Forest U.S. Forest Service, Southwest Region

U.S. Geological Survey

State Government Agencies

Governor's Office

Bureau of Mines & Mining

Dept. of Agriculture

Dept. of Finance & Administration,

State Clearinghouse Dept. of Game & Fish

Dept. of Highways & Transportation

Dept. of Parks & Recreation

Dept. of Tourism Environment Dept.

NM Museum of Natural History NM Office of Indian Affairs State Game Commission

State Historic Preservation Office

State Land Office

Local Government Agencies

**Catron County** Cibola County City of Gallup City of Grants

Coalition of AZ/NM Counties

Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments

Village of Milan

U.S. Congress

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici The Honorable Jeff Bingaman The Honorable Joe Skeen

TABLE 5-2
LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Assignment	Education	Related Experience <sup>a</sup>
Core Team John Bristol	Wilderness, Recreation, Visual Resources, Transportation Planning	BS Landscape Architecture	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner, 16 years BLM Landscape Architect, 5 years USFS Landscape Architect, 6 years
John Roney	Cultural Resources, American Indian Concerns, Lands	BA Sociology/Anthropology MA Anthropology	BLM Cultural Resource Specialist, 22 years
Jim Silva	Wildlife Habitat, Threatened & Endangered Species, Vegetation, Fire	BS Biology	BLM Wildlife Biologist/Natural Resources Specialist, 24 years
Margaret Sorensen	Recreation, Facility Development, Interpretation	BS Geology/Education	BLM Interpretive Specialist, 11 years
Gene Tatum	Vegetation, Range Management, Woodland Resources	BS Range Science	BLM Natural Resource Specialist, 5 years BLM Rangeland Mgt. Specialist, 15 years
Natural Resource & Planning Advisors Steve Fischer	Planning Advisor, NCA Manager	BA Political Science, Fine Art MA Anthropology	BLM Natural Resource Specialist, 2 years BLM Project Manager/NCA Manager, 10 years BLM Public Affairs Specialist, 3 years
Kent Hamilton	Planning Advisor, Social & Economic Conditions	BS Agricultural Economics	BLM Community Planner, 10 years BLM Economist, 11 years BIA Economist, 15 years
Patricia McLean	Planning Advisor, Geology & Minerals	BA English	BLM Manager, 11 years (Retired) BLM Administration, 8 years
Jerry Wall	Soil & Water Advisor	BS Forestry Management MS Forest Soils	BLM Soils Scientist, 21 years USFS Soils Scientist, 10 years
J.W. Whitney	Planning Advisor	BS Botany	BLM Natural Resource Specialist, 30 years

TABLE 5-2, concl'd

Name	Assignment	Education	Related Experience <sup>a</sup>
Technical & Document Production Staff M'Lee A. Beazley	Graphic Artist & Desktop Publisher	Graphic Design	BLM Visual Information/Printing Specialist, 4 years BLM Staff Assistant, 10 years
Crista Carroll	Geographer	BFA MA Geography	BLM Geographer, 11 years
Jeanne Holtby	Proofreader	High School Diploma	BLM Range Clerk, 4 years
Greg Homan	Cartographer (NM)	BS - Geography	BLM/Other, 11 years
Barbara Laskar	Word Processor	High School Diploma	BLM Staff Assistant, 20 years
Anna Salas	Word Processor & Process Records Mgr.	High School Diploma	BLM Staff Assistant, 16 years
Jennifer Schultz	Copy Editor & Proofreader	BA Psychology	Temporary Assistant
Sarah W. Spurrier	Writer-Editor	BA Psychology MBA	BLM Writer-Editor, 17 years Technical Writer-Editor, 2 years (pvt. industry)

Note: <sup>a</sup> Acronyms are as follows: BIA--Bureau of Indian Affairs, BLM--Bureau of Land Management, USFS--U.S. Forest Service.